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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

WILMINGTON, N. C., MONDAY, DEC. 26, 1853.

Authorized Agents for the Journal.
JAMES M. REDMOND, Tarboro', Edgecombe co., N. C.
JOSEPH JOHNSON, Clinton, Sampson county.
JAMES H. KEMP, Bladen county.
JAMES H. MANSOUR, Gravelly Hill, Bladen co.
B. BAYNES, Black Creek, Wayne county.
LEWIS JONES, Pink Hill P. O., Lenoir county.

Christmas Day.

Strictly speaking, and for all religious observances, to-morrow will be Christmas Day—literally, we suppose, "Christ-mass," or the mass of Christ, the celebration being commemorative of the nativity, and the English name of it, at least, originating in times when the Roman Catholic Church embraced all Western Christianity. However that may be, the festival, in a worldly point of view, will be kept on Monday, by many whose ideas of religious duty do not comport with the observance of any religious holidays, except the one day in seven, known as Sabbath or Sunday. In fact, generally speaking, Christmas is more looked forward to as a season of good fellowship and good cheer—the interchange of presents and tokens of affection—the renewal of friendships, and the making up of quarrels, than with any direct reference to its original meaning. And, after all, perhaps this may be a very good practical illustration of the precepts of one whose mission was to bring peace on earth and good will to men. If festivity sometimes runs into excess,—and we see very little of that here, generally speaking,—it is deeply to be deplored in the individual cases of its occurrence, but forms no valid argument against the observance of such a day. The exuberance of boyish feelings and fun, will sometimes become annoying in the way of noise and fire-works; but boys will be boys. We all have been,—except the ladies—who are always "girls" until matrimony destroys the fair illusion. Some head aches and regrets may survive as souvenirs of the day; but upon the whole, it will, we hope, be a day of happiness in the present, and pleasant remembrances in the future. Such, we trust, it will be to all our readers, and "the rest of mankind." It is in the full hope and confidence of such a desirable consummation, that we wish the world generally, and our patrons in particular, a "MERRY CHRISTMAS."—Daily Journal, 24th inst.

FIKE.—The alarm of fire this morning, proceeded from the office of T. C. Miller, Esq., on Front near Market street. The damage was very trifling, a shutter or two having caught fire. No other loss.

The alarm yesterday, about two o'clock, proceeded from the building on the South side of Market street, below Front, known as the "Harnett," occupied by Stern & Bros., and by the Telegraph office. The damage, we learn, was about three hundred dollars. We have not learned any particulars but understand that the damage was chiefly to the building.—Daily Journal, 23d inst.

The Epidemic Summer.

List of Interments in all the Cemeteries of New Orleans from the first of May to the 1st of November, 1853, together with the names and ages of deceased, places of nativity, causes of death, date of interment, and name of the cemetery in which interred. Alphabetically arranged, to which are added, a review of the Yellow Fever, its causes, etc., and an interesting and useful abstract of Mortuary statistics. New Orleans: Published by the Proprietors of the True Delta, Office No. 103 St. Charles street, 1853.

The above is the rather long title of an octavo pamphlet of 67 pages, containing, literally, a directory of the dead, presenting, alphabetically arranged, 12,151 names of persons who died in New Orleans last Summer, with their ages, places of birth, date of death, and the cemeteries where they were buried. Of these 12,151, but 1,102 were natives of Louisiana, and not one half of those died of fever. The bulk were among the poor emigrants from Ireland and Germany, who came to a foreign land in pursuit of competence, and found but death, sudden and unprepared; or, perhaps, some adventurous youths from the far North, even some from our own State, leaving home and kindred to seek fortune in a Southern El Dorado, and perished miserably after all the gentle and kindly influences that might smooth the path of death. This directory of the dead is one of the most melancholy records we have seen for a long time. It is human way, systematically arranged in a business manner, and sold for fifty cents. Let us look at its style:

St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Allen Mary, 8 years, unknown, July 5
Adams Mary Julia, 22 years, Ohio, fever, July 16
Allen Mary, 25 years, Ireland, fever, August 27
Allen Mary, 25 years, Ireland, fever, August 27
Adams Margaret, 20 years, Ireland, fever, August 13
Adams John, 22 years, a fever, August 13
Atkinson Frank, 32 years, Ireland, fever, August 15
Armstrong Martin Lawrence, 40 years, Ireland, fever, August 21
Alphouse sister, 22 years, a fever, August 21
Allen Elizabeth, 15 years, Ireland, fever, August 25
Atwell Henry, 54 years, Ireland, fever, Sept 5
Austin Maria, 26 years, a fever, Sept 7
Abera William, 22 years, Ireland, a fever, Sept 8
Anderson John, 18, N. C., a fever, Oct 9

In this little list we find youth and age—the father, mother, child. The Sister of Charity falling in the path of duty. Take any name there—say "Armstrong, Martin Lawrence, 40 y., Ireland, fever," and what images may it not bring to the mind of an humble home left desolate; of a widow and orphan struggling through the world without the support of that arm upon which they naturally leaned. Take almost any name throughout that melancholy twelve thousand, and to it attaches a tale of woe more touching than the boasted skill of the novelist could begin to narrate or portray.

Among the "List of Acts passed by the General Assembly of South Carolina, at the session of 1853," we find the following:

"An Act to charter a company to construct a Railroad from the junction of the C. and A. and Columbia branches of the South Carolina Railroad, to Hamburg, South Carolina."

This will shorten the route by the Manchester Road very much, by cutting off the long elbow now made in running down to Branchville.

The Steamship America arrived at Halifax on the 22d instant, with Liverpool dates to the 10th. The Four Powers were again trying their hands at patching up the Russo-Turkish quarrel, but without success. Nothing new had occurred along the line of the Danube. In Asia, the Turks are universally and signally successful, having captured several Russian fortresses on the Black Sea, and beaten large bodies of Russian troops in the field. The names of places are so confused and unpronounceable that giving them in detail would convey no information.

The Turkish Government refuses to submit to three months armistice proposed by England. Some Americans had joined the Turkish camp. Some Wallachian militia had deserted to the Turks. For Commercial news, see markets.

Col. W. F. S. Alston, formerly an editor in this State, died at Weldon, N. C., last week.

Terrible and Fatal Steamboat Explosion.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 22.—The steamer Marlboro' burst her boiler at this port, this morning, with a fearful explosion, and her Captain, the Captain's mate, engineer, pilot, and two of the hands, were killed almost instantly. Several others were wounded—some very seriously, and others perhaps fatally; two others slightly. The immediate cause of this explosion has not yet been ascertained.

From the Washington Union.
Interesting Correspondence.—Col. Clemens' Position.

The following correspondence, between a committee of national union democrats, and Col. Clemens, of Alabama, will be read with interest. It will be seen that these gentlemen have wholly mistaken the character and position of Col. Clemens. His democracy is not of the kind that depends upon the distribution of the offices—He is a democrat upon principle, and all such democrats know how to appreciate the embarrassment growing out of the distribution of the patronage. Col. Clemens distinguished himself in the Senate as a compromise democrat, and he avows his purpose to support an administration conducted by a President who is also a compromise democrat; and whose administration rests upon a faithful adherence to the compromise as a final adjustment of the slavery issue. The following correspondence renders further comment unnecessary:

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 10, 1853.

SIR: At a meeting of national Union democrats of the city and county of Philadelphia, opposed to any interference by members of the federal government in State elections, and also opposed to the nomination of Wm. Bigler for Governor, an executive committee of twenty was appointed, to send an address to be submitted to a future mass meeting, and also address to be based upon the two-fold object—repudiation of the disunion tendencies of certain members of the federal government, and the selection of a sound national Union democrat as a candidate for Governor.

Knowing your devotion and adherence to the Union, and the motto of the compromise, that you would forthwith arm to save and protect the ark of the constitution when it was about to be undermined by corruption and treason; that you fearlessly defended that great palladium of rights and liberties from the fierce libelous attacks of abolitionists, secessionists, and disunionists; believing that you prefer to follow the liberal and constitutional policy of Jefferson and Jackson, and the disunion policy of modern innovators—we, therefore, respectfully and cordially tender you an invitation to be present and address a mass meeting of national Union democrats, which will be held on Monday evening, the 19th instant, in the saloon of the Chinese Museum, Philadelphia.

We are yours, very respectfully,
ABRAHAM OLWINE,
JOHN CAMPBELL,
THOMAS T. BLYLER,
EUGENE AHERN,
C. M. CARR GAN,
ISAAC C. BRYANT,
WM. B. GRIFFITH.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15, 1853.

GENTLEMEN: Your notice of the 10th instant, inviting me to attend and address a mass meeting of national Union democrats at the Chinese Museum, Philadelphia, on the 19th instant, has been received. The object of the meeting are stated to be two-fold: first, repudiation of the disunion tendency, and secondly, the selection of a sound national Union democrat as a candidate for Governor.

With the last I trust you will readily perceive I cannot with any degree of propriety interfere. I am not a citizen of Pennsylvania, and have no voice in the selection of her public officers. I should be loath at any time to give attention to a question of opinion of any of her distinguished sons; and in the case of Governor Bigler, I know nothing in his previous history which can justify deprive him of the confidence of the Union democracy.

The first object of the meeting alone remains to be considered. I need not say that all my feelings and sympathies are with those who have steadily maintained the compromise of 1850 as a final adjustment of the slavery question. But you must allow me, kindly and respectfully, to doubt the wisdom of the course you propose to take. The President, in his inaugural and in his recent messages, has left no doubt as to his position; and I doubt if any man so well qualified to judge, as you, a large majority in the State, both sections of the democratic party have been proscribed, and the control of the State has passed into the hands of Wm. H. Seward. Surely this is not an entertainment to which any national Union man would desire to be invited.

Addressing gentlemen, in conclusion, to say that I love the Union cause too well, and have sacrificed too much in its defence, to willingly put it in jeopardy by associating it with a movement of more than doubtful propriety and of certain disaster; and while I thank you for the kind feelings which prompted your invitation, as well as the flattering terms in which it is couched, I feel constrained to decline all participation with you on the occasion referred to.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully your obedient servant,
JERE CLEMENS.

Messrs. Wm. B. Griffith, Isaac C. Bryant, and others, Philadelphia.

John C. Calhoun.

We find in the Richmond Enquirer an interesting letter, written by a French gentleman traveling in this country, who was in Washington at the time Mr. Calhoun made his last great speech in the United States Senate, on the compromise measures, in 1850. He says: "Another day I saw the wayward the impressions of that distinguished statesman. He said: 'I saw a senator who procured me a seat on the lower floor, near the place at which Senator Mason was to read Mr. Calhoun's remarks; and a little after one o'clock Mr. Calhoun entered. He wore the appearance of a man gradually expiring. His form was the mere skeleton, but his face, and the peculiar expression of his countenance, were as radiant as if he were a young man. He was so much deference and respect paid to him. Indeed, I can now know how it has happened that he has been so long in the service of his country. All looked with interest at him. When he sat down, the reading of his speech was proceeded with, beginning with the simple but unassuming argument that it is itself history, and does not require any comment. There are periods of philosophy, and I read it again after it was published, and in addition to copies sent you, I have kept several. I shall translate when I return to Paris. He was unquestionably the master spirit of the Senate.'

The Standing Committee of the House of Representatives.

The delegation from North Carolina are distributed as follows: On Claims, Mr. Ruffin; on Judiciary, Mr. Kerr; on Revolutionary Claims, Mr. Rogers; on Agriculture, Mr. Poyner; on Naval Affairs, Mr. Ashe; on Foreign Affairs, Mr. Clingman; on Roads and Canals, Mr. Shaw; J. Craig being as before stated, the Chairman of the Committee on Public Buildings and grounds.

A False Alarm.
We have heard the story of a man having been snatched off in his childhood, but a more mysterious case of the loss of identity came to our ears a couple of days since.

A few weeks since a Benedict, whose silvery hair proclaimed him on the wrong side of fifty, came to Cincinnati. Bringing a man of taste as well as means, he made the Burnet House his residence. The morning after his arrival he visited the magnificent saloon of our friend Aleck Ferguson, who, observing that his customer's hair and whiskers were a very witty appearance, suggested the propriety of his getting them dyed. Now, our hero, not being addicted to vanity, at first objected, but Aleck swore that it was a shame such *silk locks* with a *natural, wavy curl*, should be allowed to retain its frosty character, and the gentleman finally resigned his cranium to the hands of Aleck, who very speedily—by the help of a few weeks since a Benedict, whose silvery hair proclaimed him on the wrong side of fifty, came to Cincinnati. Bringing a man of taste as well as means, he made the Burnet House his residence. 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